

Annual Report

On the Health of the
Borough of Newport,
Isle of Wight,
for the year 1965

BY

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Medical Officer of Health.

PRESENTED TO THE CORPORATION
THROUGH THEIR COMMITTEE.

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COUNTY HALL

NEWPORT, I.W.

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To His Worship the Mayor, and to the Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight

MR. MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1965.

The Birth Rate rose from 13.8 to 16.6.

The Death Rate again fell from 16.8 to 16.3.

The Infantile Mortality Rate fell from 26.5 to 18.9.

The number of deaths from all forms of cancer rose from 51 to 58. Fourteen of these deaths were attributed to lung cancer.

Deaths from coronary artery disease again rose slightly from 50 to 54.

No deaths occurred from any of the statutory notifiable diseases.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

Dysentery

Sonne dysentery has occurred from time to time during the year but in no case has it been traced to food. In fact the disease is seldom spread by food but rather by personal contact, direct or indirect.

The incidence of the disease is highest in the younger age group and in old persons especially it seems in women.

As there are a large number of carriers without symptoms it can rapidly spread through a close community such as schools, nurseries, nursing homes, Old People's Homes and within the family circle.

It is therefore necessary to exercise great care in personal hygiene. Washing of the hands before handling children and food is of great importance in the control of this disease. Preventive measures are of most importance and are most effective when ascertainment is made early.

Water Supplies

The water supplies to the Borough have been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

No contamination of any significance occurred and routine samples of water taken by the Isle of Wight Water and River Authority for bacteriological examination gave the following results:—

Satisfactory
137

Suspicious
1

Unsatisfactory
Nil

No samples were taken for chemical analysis during the year.

The water is hard and is not liable to plumbo solvency. None of the houses are supplied by stand pipes.

Mental Illness

There is no doubt that there is a considerable amount of mental ill health outside our mental hospitals and with the increased pressures of modern life neurotic illness and anxiety states are very prevalent, causing a great deal of unhappiness and stress to the patient and all the members of his family.

It is not widely appreciated the enormous part played in the prevention of mental ill-health by the close co-operation between the Health and the Housing Departments.

Removal of Persons in need of Care and Attention

It was again not necessary to invoke the powers contained in Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948 during the year.

Noise Abatement

The abatement of noise in everyday life is largely ignored. It is true that certain persons are completely unaware of types of noise and noise levels which will produce serious discomfort, even anguish. As always it is the aged and sick who suffer most from the selfishness of others. But there are many robust individuals who are finding it more and more difficult to tolerate the senseless din which is more or less accepted as the inevitable background to modern living. Frayed nerves and increased tensions are not to be lightly treated as unavoidable.

The types of noise vary from the humble electric vacuum sweeper, electric food mixers, loud radios, small petrol engines for motor cycles and even lawn mowers through pneumatic road drills to aircraft engines.

In many countries noise control departments have been established and it is interesting to note that noise problems arise on farms and in offices which have always been regarded as quiet occupations.

What is noise? It has been defined as *any* sound regarded as a nuisance. It is therefore largely subjective, and produces annoyance of varying intensity according to the emotional and temperamental state of the person annoyed.

Noise need not be of great intensity to be a nuisance, even weak sounds can be distracting and cause irritation of varying degrees.

There is no doubt that in susceptible individuals noise causes stress and so as stress is a factor in producing ill health the less stress the better, the less noise the better.

Leisure

More and more people are being inflicted with the burden of time on their hands. Shorter working time, mothers whose families have grown up and left home, individuals who have retired. There are schemes to educate individuals for retirement, because boredom can be an insidious killer and not only a morale destroying factor.

There are many old people in their own homes and in local authority residential accommodation who would welcome regular short visits from kind people with time on their hands.

Many people who will freely contribute money to good causes are most niggardly with what they have most of, time. Those with projectors will bore their friends with view slides and holiday films but they will find that a film or short illustrated talk may well be a highlight in the dull monotonous life of those who are no longer active.

A final thought

We are, it seems, becoming great acceptors. We accept litter, fouling of pavements by dogs, dirty public transport, indifferent food hygiene.

Acknowledgment

It gives me great pleasure to again thank the Mayor and members of the Public Health and Housing Committee for their support. My appreciation is also extended to Mr. Aze and his colleagues for their unfailing diligence and loyal co-operation.

I wish also to record my warm thanks to both the County Fire Service and the R.S.P.C.A. for their considerable help, not only during the year but indeed for many years past. The assistance, advice and help given to the department in the many and varied matters that arise cannot be lauded adequately.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MILLS,

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1965

Medical Officer of Health—

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P. (LOND.),
D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector and Meat and Food Inspector

F. K. AZE, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board as Public Health Inspector

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Smoke Inspector

Public Health Inspectors

H. S. BULL, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board as Public Health Inspector

Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Meat and other Foods

D. H. DAWES, M.A.P.H.I. (appointed February 1965)

Certificate of the Public Health Inspectors' Board

Clerical Assistant

D. BIRBECK

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	15,530
Population (Registrar General's Figures)	...				19,020
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1965) per					
rate books	...	...	...	...	5,710
Rateable Value (as at 1.4.65)	...	...	...	...	£709,299
Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1964-65)	...				£2,905

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated					
resident population	...	...	...		16.6
Comparative factor	...	...	...	...	1.2
Comparative Birth Rate	...	...	...		19.9

Still Birth rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	9.4
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	16.3
Comparative factor	0.66
Comparative Death Rate	10.8
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	Nil
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—	
All infants per 1000 live births ...	18.9
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	20.8
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	58
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil

BIRTHS

The total number of live births was 316 of which 288 were legitimate and 28 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 16.6 per 1000 living; the birth rate for England and Wales being 18.0.

DEATHS

The total number of deaths was 311 which gives a death rate of 16.3 per 1000 of the estimated resident population, the death rate for England and Wales being 11.5.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The Infantile Mortality rate was 18.9 per 1000 registered live births; the rate for England and Wales generally was 19.0.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

<i>Cause.</i>				<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...		—	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	1	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...		—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases				—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...			2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				10	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...		—	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...		—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	20	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...		2	—
Diabetes	...	...	...	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system				21	41
Coronary disease, angina	...	...		25	29
Hypertension with heart disease	...			4	4
Other heart diseases	...	...	...	19	26
Other circulatory diseases	...	...		6	4
Influenza	...	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	9	8
Bronchitis	...	...	...	6	1
Other diseases of respiratory system				—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...			1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...			—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...		1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...		1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...			—	—
Congenital malformations	...	...		2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases				8	14
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...		1	2
All other accidents	...	...	...	4	7
Suicide	...	...	...	—	1
Other violent causes	...	...	...	—	—
All causes				143	168

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1965

[illegible]

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Inspections under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	163
Inspections under the Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	674
Drainage	...	...	...	...	194
Caravan Sites	...	...	...	...	48
Atmospheric Pollution	...	...	...	...	30
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	5
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	342
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	31
Factories	...	...	...	...	46
Rent Act	...	...	...	...	2
Food Preparation Premises	...	...	...	...	81
Foodshops and Stores	...	...	...	...	365
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	10
Bakeries	...	...	...	...	19
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	10
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	766
Rodent Control (Supervisory Visits)	...	...	...	...	9
Animal Boarding Establishments	...	...	...	...	5
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	...	...	...	...	174
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	249
					<hr/> 3223 <hr/>
Statutory Notices Served—Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	6
Informal Notices Served	...	...	...	...	152
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	137
Nuisances Abated	...	...	...	...	71
Water Samples					
(a) Drinking Water	...	...	...	...	138
(b) Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	20
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	152

FOOD**Meat Inspection.**CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND
CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle Excl'ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
No. Killed	1819	914	2150	4304	20693	—
No. Inspected	1819	914	2150	4304	20693	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	16	36	36	112	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	734	429	4	544	1311	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	40.52	48.6	1.86	13.47	6.87	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	314	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1.52	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	17	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	17	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
		Tons	Cwt.	Qrs.	Lbs.	
Total meat condemned ... ..	...	24	2	1	25	
*Other Foodstuffs ... ..	...	9	14	1	27	
		33	16	3	24	

In addition 3,034 tins of miscellaneous foodstuffs were destroyed

*Includes 7 tons of potatoes

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION

The following slaughterhouses were licensed for the year 1965:

1. Heytesbury Slaughterhouse, Worsley Road, Newport, occupied by F.M.C. (Meat) Ltd.
2. 35-43 Scarrots Lane, Newport, occupied by Bennett & Hamilton Ltd.

Seven hundred and sixty-six visits were made in connection with meat inspection and licensing requirements.

The number of slaughtermen licensed by the Council was 18.

Towards the end of the year discussions were opened with the owners of Heytesbury Slaughterhouse with a view to securing the enlargement and re-arrangement of the "smalls" slaughterhall. Certain alterations should facilitate working conditions and improve slaughterhouse hygiene. It is hoped that the necessary works will be completed during 1966.

KNACKER'S YARD

The following knacker's yard was licensed for the year 1965:

Park Green Farm, Forest Road, Carisbrooke, occupied by A. and D. Biles, of Trafalgar Cottage, Union Street, Newport.

FOOD PREMISES

The following table sets out the food premises in the Borough broadly divided into thirteen categories.

<i>Food Trade</i>	<i>No. of premises</i>	<i>Fitted to comply with Reg. 16</i>	<i>Reg. 19 applicable</i>	<i>Fitted to comply with Reg. 19</i>
Bakehouses	5	5	5	5
Bread and Cakeshops	3	3	3	3
Butchers	18	18	18	18
Canteens	3	3	3	3
Confectioners Shops (including ice cream)	21	21	20	18
Dairies	5	5	5	5
Fishmongers	4	4	4	4
Fried Fish Shops	5	5	5	5
Greengrocers	15	14	15	13
Grocers	54	54	54	54
Hotels	5	5	5	5
Licensed Premises	55	55	55	55
Cafes & Restaurants	39	39	39	39

Regulation 16 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 relates to the provision of personal washing

facilities for food handlers and Regulation 19 deals with facilities for washing food and equipment.

Regulation 19 does not apply where no open food is handled and in all cases the type of facilities required depends upon the business carried on, the kind of equipment used and the extent to which it is necessary to wash food. Although there is provision for granting Exemption Certificates in certain cases, in practice where the need for a sink is established it is seldom impracticable to provide one.

Most food premises are well equipped and the problem of "clean food" really lies in the education of the food handler. Hygienic practices in the kitchen depend partly on commonsense and partly on expert knowledge. Good management will achieve much but only in the larger "factory-type" premises is detailed supervision possible and it is the attitude of the individual employee which really counts. Management too should be aware that if staff are being pressed to increase speed to satisfy waiting customers then it will not be surprising if basic precautions such as hand washing are neglected.

Legal proceedings were instituted against a firm of butchers in respect of contraventions of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960 in rooms used for the preparation of sausages. Fines totalling £165 were imposed in respect of nineteen offences.

FOOD INSPECTION

Nine complaints were received about items of food purchased by retail. In four cases the food was thought to contain extraneous material and in the remainder there was doubt in the customer's mind about the freshness or fitness of the article bought. Appropriate investigation was carried out and in no case was it necessary to institute proceedings.

There was a reduction in the number of complaints concerning the freshness of sausages, meat pies etc. and this suggests that retailers are taking more care in the handling and marketing of these products.

SWIMMING POOLS

Bacteriological Samples	No. of Samples Satisfactory	No. of Samples Unsatisfactory
Warner's Woodside Bay Holiday Village	4	—
Pontin's Little Canada Holiday Village	4	—
Seaclose 	3	—
Carisbrooke Grammar School ...	2	—
Lakeside 	4	1
Carisbrooke Jnr. School 	1	1

There are eight swimming pools; two are open to the public and the remainder are at schools and holiday camps. All except one are outdoor pools.

Thirty-one visits were made to take samples and give advice about treatment. Simple testing apparatus is available and frequent estimation of alkalinity and chlorine residual, together with an assessment of the degree of turbidity enables a satisfactory standard to be maintained.

Samples are taken at intervals for bacteriological examination and the foregoing results are based on the standard for mains water supply.

HOUSING

Closing Orders were made in respect of two unfit houses and undertakings not to re-let were accepted from the owners of two others.

During the year the Council's Contractors were engaged on building 46 units at Manor Crescent and 30 units at Cross Lane. Eighteen dwellings were actually completed at Manor Crescent, made up as follows:—

Houses—3 bedroom	...	...	12
Houses—2 bedroom	...	...	5
Bungalows—2 bedroom	...	...	1

Four further dwellings are expected shortly to complete a contract of 22. Work on another contract of 24 commenced in the early autumn and the first houses are expected in the summer of 1966.

By the end of the year the flats at Cross Lane were reported to be four months ahead of schedule, and likely to be ready for occupation by February 1966. The block is the first 3 storey building to be built by the Council. Many of the flats therein will, it is hoped, be let to elderly tenants of the Council's larger houses, thus making suitable accommodation available for younger families.

June 1965 saw the completion of the Council's 900th dwelling and providing the Ministry approve of the building programme envisaged by the Housing Committee, the thousandth dwelling should be ready for letting in 1967. The Council are now the second largest housing authority on the Island. The I.W. Rural District Council already have over 1000 units.

Future development will include small housing schemes such as flats at Nelson Road, Robin Hood Street, and the junction of Carisbrooke Road/Castle Road. Numerous applications for these flats have already been received from

elderly Council tenants willing to give up their three and four bedroom properties.

Vacancies among Council dwellings still only amount to about 25 per annum, and the Waiting List rarely totals less than 300. Much attention has been given in the past few years to the provision of small units for the elderly, and the Waiting List for flats has been greatly reduced. Marriages now take place at a very early age and the Waiting List now includes many parents under 20 years of age.

It has been estimated that $16\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the Borough population now live in Council dwellings.

Rents still compare very favourably with those of other authorities and are now fixed at the Gross Value for Rating purposes. A modern 3 bedroom house now lets for 42/- per week, and a one-bedroom flat for 30/-.

A revised "Points Scheme" for the allocation of Council houses was introduced during the year in an effort to ensure that every deserving case received favourable consideration. The revised scheme ensures that the sick and physically disabled get some priority, and those who have waited a long time in unsatisfactory housing conditions, but are not actually overcrowded, are not overlooked. However, those families whose landlords have sought possession of their property in the Courts cannot be ignored, especially when homelessness would result in children being separated from their parents.

It is not possible to apply a "Points Scheme" to these cases as such human problems cannot be assessed in numerical terms.

RODENT AND INSECT PEST CONTROL

The following properties were inspected under Part 1 of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, during the year:—

Local Authority Premises	...	45
Dwelling Houses	... ..	397
Business Premises	... ..	201
Agricultural Premises	...	99

Four hundred and five properties were treated and in addition 22 Rodent Control Certificates were issued in respect of 10 ships.

The number of business premises where rodent control is carried out under annual Contract with the Council is 83.

The sewer system was tested for the presence of rats by test baiting 10 per cent of manholes. The results were negative but known areas of infestation were excluded from the test. The position therefore remains unaltered; generally

the sewer system is free of rats but in some parts they are constantly present and have to be dealt with at regular intervals.

Complaints about rats and mice in dwellings show a seasonal fluctuation but the number received remains about the same from year to year. Disinfestation in private dwellings is free and in addition advice is given about proofing methods.

Complaints received concerning insect infestations decreased and this is consistent with a tendency for many householders to deal with minor problems themselves. Convenient and effective insecticides for use in the home are readily available and when used according to instructions these are harmless to man and domestic animals. However it is important to keep such products in a safe place and they should not be within reach of children or stored where they might be confused with foodstuffs.

Wasp nests are dealt with by the Department free of charge and although this is only a minor activity it is a service which is nevertheless appreciated by the public.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The appointment of a third Public Health Inspector has enabled time to be spent on the inspection of premises under this Act.

One hundred and seventy-four inspections were made during the year and occupiers of premises co-operated well in complying with the requirements of the Act. No expensive structural alterations were found to be necessary.

The occupier must notify the Council of any accident which causes death, or incapacity for more than three days of any person employed. A number of accidents were reported during the year and where necessary an investigation was made and a report sent to the Minister together with a statement outlining steps taken by the occupier to reduce the risk of similar accidents.

The total number of registered premises in the Borough at the end of the year was 282. The types of establishments that have registered can be summarised as follows:—

Offices	101
Retail Shops	139
Wholesale shops, warehouses	20
Catering establishments open to the public and canteens	18
Fuel storage depots	4

The number of persons employed in the workplaces listed above totals 1,002 males and 1,234 females.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

This service continued to operate a weekly collection of domestic refuse from 5812 hereditaments and a fortnightly collection from 20 outlying farms and dwellings.

Trade refuse is collected daily (except Saturdays) from shops and business premises in the town, and three vehicles are employed on this work until about 10 or 10.30 a.m. It is essential to complete the collection of trade refuse as early as possible in the interest of hygiene and tidiness of streets, and to avoid traffic congestion.

The daily collection of trade refuse was found to be expensive and the charges made only covered a small fraction of the actual cost. The Council therefore authorised a new scale of charges to be introduced and this resulted in revenue from this source being increased from £708 p.a. to £1767 p.a. It was explained to all traders that although the new charges would not meet the whole cost of the service, it was essential to make some increase.

A new 35/50 cu. yd. Dennis Paxit III A Major continuous loading refuse collection vehicle was purchased in December and its introduction considerably increased the carrying capacity of the fleet.

The following vehicles were in use at the end of 1965.

- (a) One 16/18 cu. yd. Shelvoke & Drewry "W" Type Freighter with fore and aft tipping body.
- (b) Two 16/18 cu. yd. Shelvoke & Drewry "W" Type Freighters with fore and aft tipping bodies with powerpresses.
- (c) One 18/25 cu. yd. Dennis continuous loading vehicle.
- (d) One 35/50 cu. yd. Dennis continuous loading vehicle.

Efforts are being made to keep one vehicle in reserve which can be brought into use when others are being repaired or serviced.

A new "Brierley & Kershaw" 2 h.p. Bantam electric paper baler was purchased and this machine facilitates the baling of paper previously done by hand. During the year 59 tons of waste paper were baled and sold to the Paper Mills at a profit.

Refuse disposal is by tipping at Sandpit Plantation, Briddlesford. Every effort is made to cover refuse but at times there are temporary shortages of covering material. Attention is always paid to tidiness and the tip is well screened by trees. Appropriate measures for control of rodents and flies are undertaken regularly.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The East Cowes Road soil sewer and pumping station was completed and a high proportion of the properties, previously drained to inefficient cesspools, have been connected to the main system.

Lengths of old soil sewers at New Road, Wootton and Halberry House were relaid.

The first phase of the surface water drainage scheme for Palmers Road was carried out and the next phase will be carried out in the coming year.

Schemes have been prepared and approved to provide soil sewers to serve properties in Forest Road and Cowes Road and a surface water system for the Melbourne Park Estate area.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1961

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health.

PART I OF THE ACT.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	2	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	129	44	5	—
(iii) Other premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—
TOTAL	148	46	5	—

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Remed'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	No. of Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	8	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	9	—	2	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT.

OUTWORKERS.

Nature of work	SECTION 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Lampshades	18	—	—	—	—	—
Wearing apparel, Making, etc.	3	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	21	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS, 1955.

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Portsmouth, for the presence of live Tubercle Bacilli.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during the year 1965	...	...	...	...	...	46
Number of samples found to be negative	...					46
Number of samples found to be positive	...					—
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	...	...	...	...		—
Number of void samples	...	...	...			—

